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# Hackers target Australia, UK government websites with crypto-jacking malware

The process forces a user's computer to mine cryptocurrency, which in this case was the coin Monero

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remained on the sites of the Victorian parliament, QCAT and the Queensland ombudsman.

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Scott Helme, a British-based security researcher who

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discovered the malware, said government websites could have done more to prevent the attack.

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“When you load software like this from a third party, that third party can change it and make it do whatever they want,” he said.

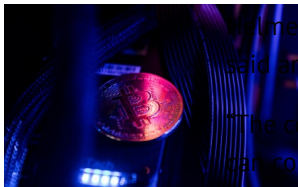
“There are easy ways to make sure they don’t do that. We don’t know how Texthelp were compromised yet, so it is hard to say whether they were really unlucky or there was some kind of inherent problem with what they were doing.

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(http://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/2131662/cybercriminals-are-swarming-around-cryptocurrencies) →

“But there were ways the government sites could have protected themselves from this. It may have been difficult for a small website, but I would have thought on a government website we should have expected these defence mechanisms

Related Articles to be in place.”



documented the attack on his website, while Texthelp said an investigation was under way.

The company has examined the affected file thoroughly and can confirm that it did not redirect any data, it simply used the computers’ CPUs to attempt to generate cryptocurrency,” it said.

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Asia's China Morning Post  
Article ID: 2135984  
malaysia-sued-over-bitcoin-machines)  
CHINA (/NEWS/CHINA)  
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"The exploit was active for a period of four hours on Sunday.

The Browsealoud service has been temporarily taken offline

and the security breach has already been addressed, however

Browsealoud will remain offline until Tuesday 12.00pm GMT."

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from his now-defunct website) is being used by the family of a deceased hacker who said he robbed the man of a fortune in bitcoin.

Wright has claimed to be the inventor of cryptocurrency. Photo: DrCraigWright.net

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'Bitcoin creator' sued for US\$5 billion for 'ripping off dead hacker'

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Other government sites affected include Victoria's City of Casey

council, Western Australia's City of Bayswater council, South

Australia's City of Unley council, and the office of the

Queensland Public Guardian, which protects the rights of young

children in care.

In December *The Guardian* reported that nearly 1 billion

visitors to the video sites Openload, Streamango, Rapidvideo

and OnlineVideoConverter were also being crypto-jacked.

*This article appeared in the South China Morning Post print edition as:  
Hackers put virus in government web pages to get bitcoin*





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